



Karibu Kilwa

Kilwa District Heritage Resources

Tanzania



February 2015

European Union

This inventory is a result of the 2013-2016 EU project N° EDF/2013/327-376 titled:

"Promoting heritage resources in Kilwa to strengthen social and economic development"

"Kutangaza rasilimali za urithi zilizopo Kilwa ili kukuza maendeleo ya kijamii na Kiuchumi"

Project partners

Project partners are:

CRAterre
Kilwa District Council
Kilwa Masoko Township Authority
Rochefort Océan Communauté d'Agglomération



Financial partners are:

The European Union
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KILWA

Maliasili Katika Wilaya Kilwa

Inventory of Heritage Resources in Kilwa District

Dear reader,

You have probably heard about the famous ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara, inscribed on the World Heritage List. But can you name other places of interest around Kilwa? It is to answer this question that Kilwa District has launched an inventory of its cultural and natural resources. This illustrated publication presents the first results of the inventorying process, after one year of work. This is not a comprehensive list as large parts of the territory have not yet been explored. The heritage resources presented here give a sense of the natural and cultural wealth that the district has to offer. It is the goal of the inventory team to continue this important survey work to raise awareness and provide key opportunities in sustainable tourism development.

We would like to thank the population without whom all these rich sites would have remained secret. We also thank the European Union for providing the necessary resources to carry out this exciting work.

The inventory team



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Abdallah Ulega

District Commissioner, Kilwa District

I am pleased to present this inventory of our rich heritage in Kilwa District, the first work of its kind in Lindi Region. Kilwa district is blessed with a great diversity of heritage sites, both cultural and natural. They give us a deep knowledge of our past, a clear understanding of our present, and a solid foundation for our future. Recognizing and safeguarding this heritage is more than a mere nice to do, it is essential to our growth as a people. For the past years, Kilwa has been well known from its benevolent history of trade dominance all over the western Indian Ocean coast and from the presence of beautiful architectural structures that not only prove the existence of the historical town but express who we are and who we were in the past. At the inception of the project, it was really evident that Kilwa has a lot to show to the heritage community all over the world.

I have learned that this inventory puts forward a broad, long term vision for our heritage in Kilwa District. Through public consultation we have learned and identified Kilwa as a precious area endowed with very valuable heritage that could, therefore make Kilwa District a centre for heritage studies and a hub for tourism activities, not only in the southern circuit but to the whole country. The inventory has defined heritage broadly to encompass our cultural heritage such as ruins, artefacts, buildings, human current activities such as fishing, salt farming and crafts works; our natural heritage that has been identified includes water, forests, animal and birds. From this inventory therefore, each of us has a responsibility to be a steward of heritage. All level of government, every business, every organization, every community and indeed every Kilwan must share in its preservation and celebration. Unfortunately, for many past years, only the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, through the Antiquities Division, has invested heavily in our famous World Heritage Site, that is the Ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and the Ruins of Songo Mnara, while the Kilwa District Authority has never seriously engaged in this important field. However, it is good to learn that this inventory work has involved the Ministry, the Local Authority and the community at large. It is our responsibility, therefore to ensure that this valuable work is linked to future Kilwa district plans, actions and initiatives and should be streamlined in our daily operations, the way we work together to manage our heritage issues and resources.

From this inventory it is obvious that Kilwa has unique heritage that we need to seriously preserve and use for our future socio-economic development. By so doing, this heritage will define who we are, it will enrich our quality of life, attract tourists, draw migration to our beautiful beaches, contribute to our economic well-being and hence make Kilwa District a desirable place to live and work. It is also our huge responsibility to ensure that the heritage we have is passed on to our children and grandchildren, as rich as we have inherited it.

On behalf of the Kilwa Community I would like to thank all those who planned and coordinated this valuable piece of work for their initiatives, time and commitment to accomplish this inventory. I would like therefore to reiterate that my office will support this endeavour and therefore ensure that promoting heritage is in our development priorities.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and strokes, positioned below the 'Thank you.' text.

Forewords

Donatius M.K. Kamamba

Director of Antiquities, Ministry for Natural Resources and Tourism



Recognition of the Value and importance of cultural heritage resources is not new among the Tanzanian communities. Before the Colonial era our ancestors conserved their significant cultural heritage, which included sacred places, traditional tools, customs and settlements. This heritage was managed by respected individuals or clans in the communities and was passed on from one generation to the next to keep memories of the communities' history. Cultural heritage resources are an identity to any nation. Tanzania is endowed with many cultural resources with international status. Some have publicized the country worldwide. Such resources include the Oldupai Gorge and Laetoli footprints in Arusha; Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara ruins in Lindi; and the Rock Art Paintings in Kondoa, Dodoma which are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara Islands, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1981, were inhabited since the ninth Century AD. During their prosperity in the 14th and 15th Centuries, the islands were the wealthiest of the Swahili city states and controlled the lucrative trade routes along a considerable stretch of the East African coast. The Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara ruins have been under the threat of natural decay, plant infestation and roots destruction; wind erosion; sea wave destruction and human activities on or near the property. Hence in 1999, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism designed a project in collaboration with UNESCO, the French Embassy, the Japanese Embassy and Kilwa District Authorities to start from 2002 to 2005. During this period, the Ruins were inscribed on the World Heritage danger list. This listing helped to obtain support from a number of technical and financial partners including African World Heritage Fund, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, World Monuments Fund, Norwegian Government, International Labour Organization, World Bank, French Government, American Government and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism. All these supports dwelled on the consolidation of the ruins; community awareness and involvement; capacity building to staff and villagers in tour guidance and entrepreneurship.

The present funding from the European Union emphasises, among others, on the inventorying of the cultural and natural heritage in the Kilwa District. The inventory prepared under the implementation of the Kilwa project is an important undertaking that furnishes the Division with detailed information of the key natural and cultural heritage resources within Kilwa District. This information will help to identify and privatize the sites potential for conservation and development; conservation and management priorities; potential partnerships and linkages depending on the type of heritage identified. The inventory will assist the Division to create an accessible computer-based resource of the country's immovable cultural heritage for the day to day reference. It will provide a much faster and more efficient mode of access which can be rapidly searched, easily updated and corrected and will set up links to the photographic archives. It is a commendable job that needs to be supported and utilized after its completion.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'D' followed by a long horizontal stroke and a loop.



Malika BERAK

Ambassador of France in Tanzania

The Kilwa site and region have benefited from the French cooperation since the 2000s. The city bears the signs of the most important encounters between the cultures of Africa, the Indian Ocean and Europe, testimony to the richness of exchanges in that area. Since the Islamisation of the African coast, the Portuguese adventure of the route to India, the Oman sultanate and the proximity of Zanzibar, everything here is History.

Many are the accounts describing the wealth of the cities of Kilwa and their role in the circulation of goods, ideas and people. The first support provided by France focused on the urgent need to back the conservation of unique architectural elements, then imminently threatened. The project enabled inter alia the restauration of the Great Mosque and the renovation of several other structures.

The Kilwa heritage site holds extraordinary capital, both natural and cultural, for the local populations. It is on this capital that the sustainable development of the district must be built to make the ownership of the successive support programs a daily reality.

Today, France takes part in this project of sustainable development for Kilwa. Much like Tanzania, France has a long coastal line and shores, attracting a high number of tourists. The Rochefort region in particular has a rich and diverse heritage, close in its nature to Kilwa: salt marshes, shipyards, seaside tourism.

Cooperation between the urban community of Rochefort-Océan, the district of Kilwa and the municipality of Kilwa, with the help of the French NGO CRAterre is a unique opportunity for exchanges and cultural meetings at the scale of local territories. This development project actually receives generous support from the European Union.

This report identifies the different heritage sites around Kilwa. It testifies to the considerable potential the district and the municipality are endowed with to transform their territory while truly involving their population. An in-depth knowledge of traditions, of methods of exploitation of natural resources, of environmentally respectful construction modalities will contribute to the ability of the populations to remain in the district.

In this spirit, this inventory constitutes an important step and I wish to thank all the institutions and people who, over the last few years, contributed to its publication.

Forewords

Malika BERAK

Ambassadrice de France en Tanzania

Le site et la région de Kilwa ont retenu l'attention de la coopération française depuis les années 2000. Cette cité garde les traces des plus importantes rencontres entre les cultures de l'Afrique, de l'Océan indien et de l'Europe et témoigne de la richesse des échanges dans cette zone. Depuis l'islamisation de la côte africaine, l'aventure portugaise de la route des Indes jusqu'au sultanat d'Oman et la proximité avec Zanzibar, tout ici est Histoire.

Nombreux sont les témoignages décrivant la richesse des cités de Kilwa et leur rôle dans la circulation des biens, celle des idées et celle des personnes. Le premier appui de la France s'est focalisé sur la nécessité urgente d'appui à la conservation d'éléments architecturaux uniques, alors directement menacés. Ce projet a permis entre autres la restauration de la Grande Mosquée et la consolidation de plusieurs autres bâtiments.

Le patrimoine de Kilwa est un capital extraordinaire, à la fois naturel et culturel, dont disposent les populations locales. C'est sur ce capital que doit se construire le développement durable du district pour que l'appropriation des programmes successifs d'appui au site devienne une réalité au quotidien.

Aujourd'hui la France participe à ce projet de développement durable de Kilwa. Tout comme la Tanzanie, la France dispose d'une large façade maritime, qui attire un grand nombre de touristes. La région de Rochefort en particulier dispose d'un patrimoine riche et varié, par nature proche de celui de Kilwa : marais salants, chantiers navals, tourisme balnéaire.

La coopération entre la Communauté d'agglomération Rochefort-Océan, le district de Kilwa et la municipalité de Kilwa, avec l'aide de l'organisation CRAterre est une opportunité unique d'échanges et de rencontres culturelles à l'échelle des territoires. Ce projet de développement reçoit d'ailleurs un soutien généreux de l'Union Européenne.

Ce rapport recense les différents sites patrimoniaux autour de Kilwa. Il témoigne du potentiel considérable dont disposent le district et la municipalité pour dynamiser leur territoire en impliquant véritablement la population. Une bonne connaissance des traditions, des méthodes d'exploitation des ressources naturelles, des modes de construction respectueux de l'environnement contribue au maintien des populations dans le district.

Dans cet esprit, cet inventaire constitue une étape importante et il convient de remercier toutes les institutions et les personnes qui, au cours des années passées, ont contribué à sa publication.



Malika BERAK



Filiberto Ceriani Sebregondi
European Union Ambassador in Tanzania

The story of Kilwa is thrilling. It is beautiful, exciting, sometimes sad, yet full of promise.

The great traveller Ibn Battuta, when setting foot in Kilwa in 14th century, wrote that it was one of the most beautiful cities in the world, and he had seen Tangiers, Constantine, Alexandria, Cairo, Jerusalem and many more! Kilwa grew to be a substantial city and the leading commercial warehouse on the southern half of the Swahili coast. It was the gateway for an intensive exchange of goods between Africa and the rest of the world. Chinese porcelain has been found as far inland as Zimbabwe, and an African giraffe was one brought to China as a gift to the Emperor. Kilwa became the most powerful city on the East African coast in the 15th century, and was successively coveted by the Portuguese, the Arabs and the rulers of Oman. This history also left some scars. Slave trade and successive occupations left scars and destruction on buildings, people and the landscape. The city eventually turned into a quiet village, but the remaining beautiful architectural sites are now under UNESCO's World Heritage List.

However, we have hope for Kilwa. In Europe many beautiful cities have been revived, building on their heritage for a brighter future. Successful recipes for these cities to be reborn include: cultural heritage preservation, creative industries, sustainable tourism management, and assistance for people to set up small and medium enterprises. I am pleased to see that the government of Kilwa is moving in that direction and is working hard to revive Kilwa.

The project with the International Centre for Earth Construction (CRATERRE-ENSAG) that the European Commission has decided to support, as shown off in this excellent brochure, is another source of hope for Kilwa. Its aims at empowering the local population of Kilwa to manage its cultural and natural heritage in a way that will trigger increased economic and social development.

Through a focus on documenting, enhancing and promoting natural and cultural heritage outside the World Heritage boundary, this project is complementary to the remarkable efforts the Government of Tanzania, UNESCO, the French Embassy and other leading heritage organisations; which are working to preserve the ancient ruins and buildings of Kilwa.

Visitors who flock to Kilwa and enjoy its pristine beaches must prolong their stay for the people of Kilwa to fully benefit from their presence. Providing them with a diversified offering of natural and cultural attractions and increased tourist infrastructure will certainly contribute to this. Through the training of tour guides, the setting-up and management of local guesthouses and the creation of an Information Centre, the inhabitants of Kilwa will directly benefit from this project and from a growing tourism industry.

Introduction

The European Union believes in the role of culture in building bridges across countries and regions, as well as being an important instrument for sustainable development. Cultural dialogues and promotion of cultural diversity can play important roles in the preservation of peace, solidarity and good governance. Culture can also contribute significantly to social and economic development.

It is with this in mind that the European Union decided to embark on a major cooperation program to support culture for development in Tanzania. The first phase of this programme has been the support to creative and cultural industries, in all fields from dance to theatre, visual arts, films, music and crafts. Eleven projects are ongoing and are starting to make Tanzanian artists shine even brighter. The second phase of the programme is the Support to Preservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage. Eight projects were awarded to receive grants, including the support to Kilwa.

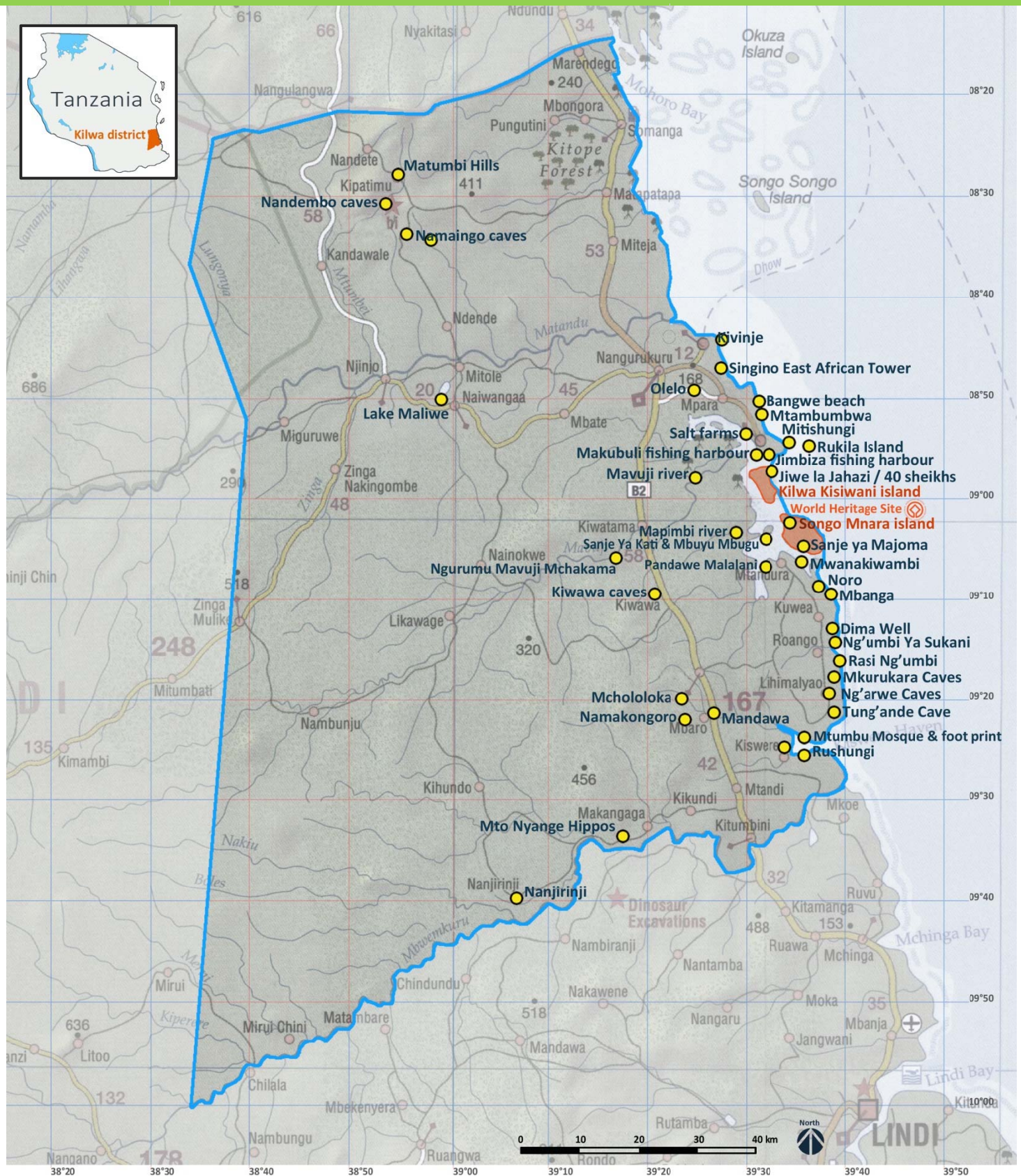
These projects support the restoration of heritage sites in Tanzania, the training of tour guides, and the creation of tourism infrastructure to encourage a growing and attractive tourist industry in Tanzania. These include the project "Heritage Centre on the Site of the former Slave Market and Preservation of Christ Church Cathedral", led by the World Monuments Fund; "Promotion of earth and human heritage of Ngorongoro by valorisation of the Oldupai and Laetoli sites", led by the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority; the project "Dar es Salaam Centre for Architectural Heritage", led by the Architectural Association of Tanzania; and the project "Cultural Heritage Conservation, Tourism and Sustainable Development in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania", led by the Tumaini University of Iringa.

We will be working closely with all these projects to support them in achieving their objective of a stronger and more vibrant cultural sector in Tanzania, especially through exploiting opportunities for synergies and fertilisation between these initiatives.

The European Union is confident that we will see fruits of economic growth, cultural celebration, peace and a greater knowledge of the history and heritage throughout Tanzania, and specifically in the beautiful area of Kilwa, as these projects grows from strength to strength.

F.C. Sebregondi

Map of inventoried sites





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LOCATION and ACCESS

On foot, the beach is approximately 15 minutes away from Masoko market area.

08°55'43.02"S
39°31'12.03"E

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DESCRIPTION

The fishing harbor is a wide sandy beach where Kilwa Masoko people meet with fishermen. It is a constantly busy place where many activities can be observed. This place worth seeing is also where boats are built or repaired.

Masoko Fishing Harbour

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08°55'32.33"S
39°30'21.44"E

LOCATION and ACCESS

On foot, this small fishing village is approximately 15 minutes away from Masoko market area. To access the place, ask for the Lutheran church. From the church, walk down to the water to reach the village.

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DESCRIPTION

The village sits in a small creek in the mangrove where fishermen using small canoes prepare their nets and fix their boats. Many activities can be observed and good meals with fresh fish/crabs can be booked in advance. Tours on canoes offer a unique experience. Rich birdlife can also be observed around the mangrove.

Makubuli Fishermen village

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08°56'22.57"S
39°30'55.12"E

LOCATION and ACCESS

This site is on the southern coast of Masoko, and faces Kilwa Kisiwani Island. It takes 10 mn on bicycle to reach the place from Masoko centre, and 25 mn only by foot.

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DESCRIPTION

This is a preserved coastal area, with interesting views on Kisiwani, rich flora and fauna, including marine life. It's an ideal spot to rest on a quiet sand beach and enjoy a picnic away from the busy market area. A few caves can also be seen within the cliffs.

Ngazi Ya Watumwa



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LOCATION and ACCESS

There are 36 salt producers in Kilwa Masoko. Accessing their farms is extremely easy on foot, bicycle or by car (10 minutes). Some farms are only accessible by boat and offer the opportunity to enjoy a nice excursion.

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DESCRIPTION

Salt farms create a fascinating landscape behind the mangrove and are worth seeing. Salt is still harvested in the traditional way by men and women. Salt producers are very keen to see visitors and always ready to answer questions.

Kilwa salt farms



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LOCATION and ACCESS

This small island is 12 km away from Masoko harbour. It takes only 1h30mn by boat to reach the place. At low tide, the island can also be reached by foot after a 3 hours walk on the sand, but this can be dangerous and requires an experienced guide to avoid being trapped by the ocean.

8°53'53.53"S
39°36'5.51"E

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DESCRIPTION

The southern coast of Tanzania houses the highest levels of coral and fish biodiversity in the region. Snorkeling or scuba diving on a coral reef is unforgettable. Rukila is a perfect base for snorkeling, picnicking, watching birds or even sleeping at night as fishermen do.



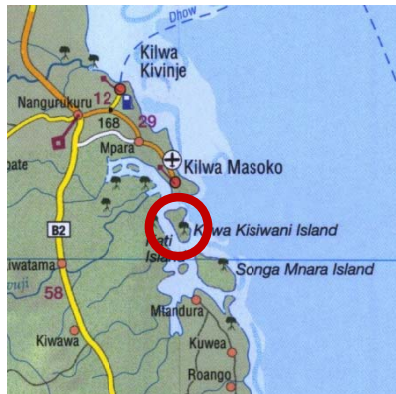
WORLD HERITAGE SITE Rukila Island



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LOCATION and ACCESS

Kisiwani island can only be accessed by boat. Crossing with an engine boat takes approximately 20 minutes. Crossing by dhow is definitely more authentic but takes more time, depending on the wind conditions.

08°57'29.29"S
39°29'57.60"E

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DESCRIPTION

Magnificent and envied city in the past, Kilwa is now a peaceful island marked by impressive ruins. Visiting the island takes not less than two hours. Half a day to a full day is more appropriate for visiting all the ruins, seeing the village, observing the birds and exploring the shoreline.

KILWA

HERITAGE RESOURCES



WORLD HERITAGE SITE **Kilwa Kisiwani**

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KILWA ISLANDS TOUR GUIDE ASSOCIATION

KILWA DISTRICT COUNCIL
KILWA MASOKO TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY





08°57'29.29"S
39°29'57.60"E

LOCATION and ACCESS

Kisiwani island can only be accessed by boat. Crossing with an engine boat takes approximately 20 minutes. Crossing by dhow is definitely more authentic but takes more time, depending on the wind conditions.

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KILWA

HERITAGE RESOURCES



WORLD HERITAGE SITE **Kilwa Kisiwani**

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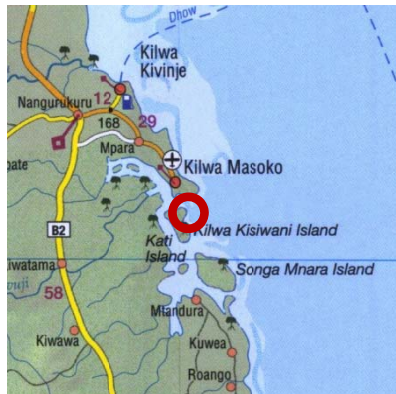
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KILWA ISLANDS TOUR GUIDE ASSOCIATION

KILWA DISTRICT COUNCIL
KILWA MASOKO TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY





LOCATION and ACCESS

This rock is located at the north eastern corner of Kisiwani island. The place can be reached by boat from Masoko or by foot from Kisiwani port.

08°57'33.02"S
39°32'07.84"E

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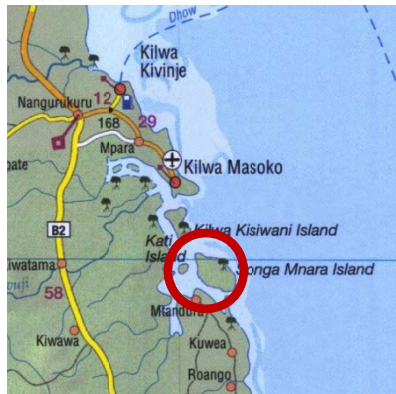
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DESCRIPTION

“Jiwe la Jahazi” means stone dhow. The legend says that this was a real dhow belonging to enemies who wanted to attack the village, but a special prayer (Al-badiir) changed them to stone.





LOCATION and ACCESS

Songo Mnara lies 12 km south of Masoko, below Kisiwani island. Engine boats take not less than 1 hour to reach the place. A visit to the ruins and the entire island makes for a good day trip.

09°02'24.09"S
39°35'05.82"E

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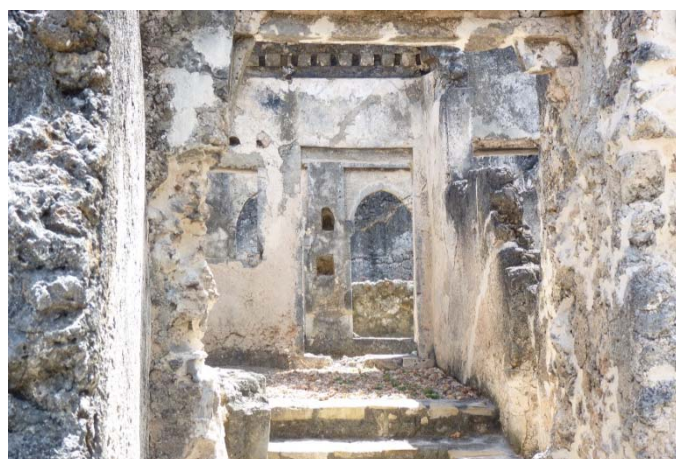


DESCRIPTION

Like Kisiwani, Songo Mnara is an archaeological site of prime importance to the understanding of the Swahili culture. The landscape is marked with a series of impressive ruins dating back to the 15th century AD, when it was of a prominent stone town, with exceptional architectural details.

Songo Mnara

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LOCATION and ACCESS

This island is located west of Songo Mnara, 14 km away from Masoko harbour. It can be reached by motor boat (45 min) or dhow (1h30 min if the wind is conducive).

09°03'28.42"S
39°31'43.27"E

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KILWA MASOKO TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY

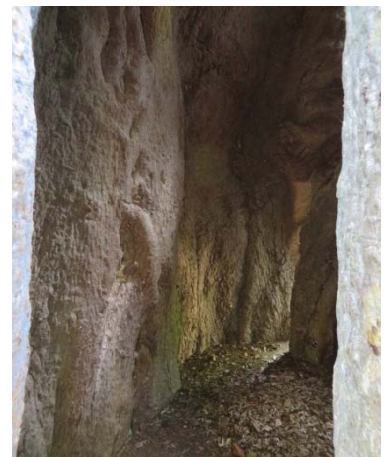
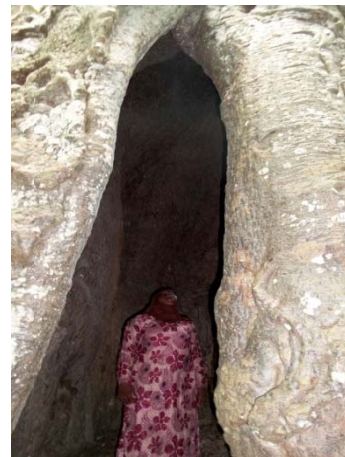


DESCRIPTION

The boat trip is an interesting experience through the mangrove, with a great variety of birds. On the way, you can also see all stages in the fishermen work, from catching the fishes to drying them on the beach. From the shore of the island, you can walk 20 minutes through the village to reach “Mbuyu Mbugu”, an impressive baobab with hollow trunk. The white sand beach is ideal for resting, swimming and camping.

Sanje Ya Kati & Mbuyu Mbugu

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LOCATION and ACCESS

Pandawe site is located within Malalani village in Pande. It is about 135 kilometres from Masoko town and it takes two and half an hour to Malalani, by car. Then you walk for 15 minutes to the site.

09°07'13.16"S
39°32'07.37"E

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DESCRIPTION

It is said that in this area, Unji Bin Unuki, a very tall person, sank in the mud. This legend is supported by a series of stones that represent his kitchen and footprints carved in the stone.

Pandawe Malalani

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09°06'42.61"S
39°35'59.84"E

LOCATION and ACCESS

The ruins are located at the south of Songo Mnara. The place can be reached by boat (2h30 min) or Dhow from Masoko or by foot (4 hours) from Songo Mnara.

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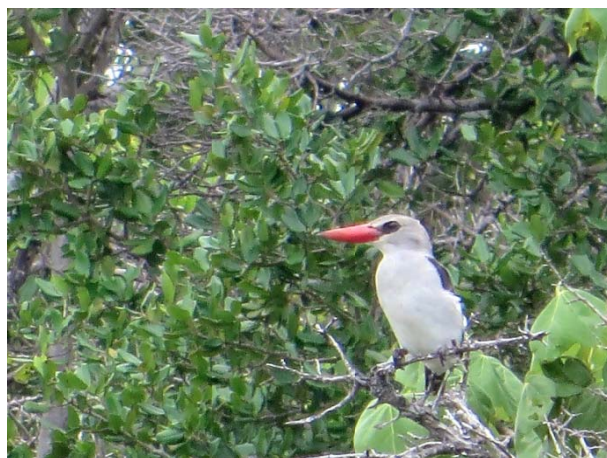


DESCRIPTION

This is an archeological site that has not yet been conserved. It is therefore difficult to interpret the wall remains but the ruins are very close to the water shore. In this part of Songo Mnara, you can meet fishermen, camp and observe birds. You can also walk across the island and reach the sea side (1 km only).

Mwanakiwambi

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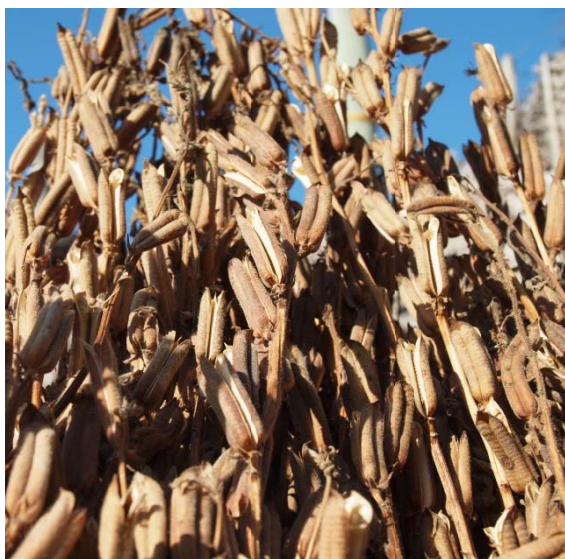
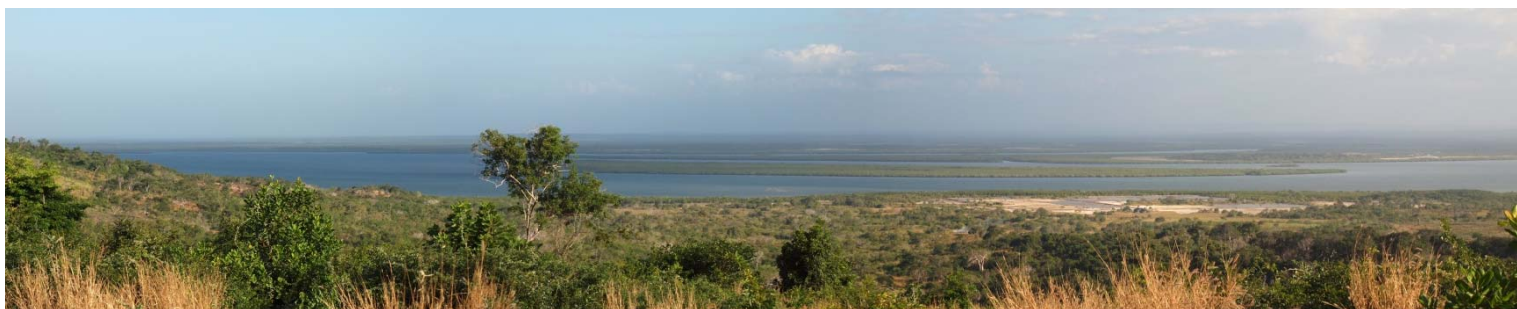


08°51'35.25"S
39°27'31.02"E

LOCATION and ACCESS

It takes 1 hour and a half to reach this site that offers a great view on Kilwa wetlands and the salt farms. The first 9 km can easily be done on bicycle in less than an hour. You then have to walk 1,5 km inland. After 30 minutes of walk, you overlook the landscape.

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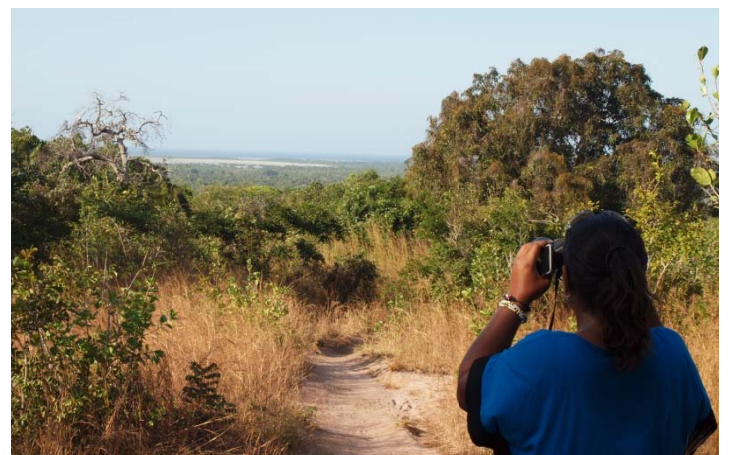


DESCRIPTION

This excursion is ideal for a quiet pick nick in nature. Along the road, one can enjoy the rural activities and admire the vernacular architecture made of local materials. Many shops sell drinks and small snacks along the road, such as freshly made samosa. Monkeys can often be seen along the trail.

Olelo bike trip

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LOCATION and ACCESS

Kivinje is 25 km away from Masoko. Riding to Kivinje on bicycle is accessible to anyone in good physical condition. The trip takes two hours, ie four hours for the roundtrip. 18 km are on the paved road, the rest is done on an abandoned road near the littoral. Bikes can easily be rented in Masoko.

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DESCRIPTION

Going to Kivinje by bike allows you to immerse into traditional architecture and landscapes, and allows for enjoyable encounters with the population. Kivinje is worth seeing and offers nice resting places at the harbor after the bicycle ride.

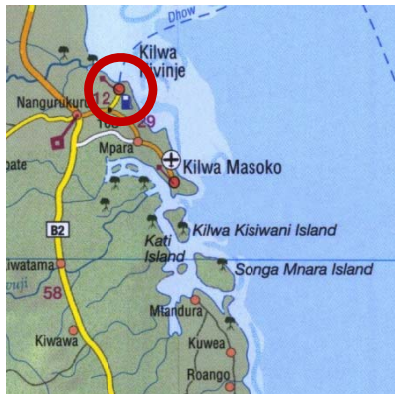
Masoko-Kivinje bike trip



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08°44'46.19"S
39°24'46.22"E

LOCATION and ACCESS

Kivinje is a harbor located 25 km north of Masoko. It can be reached in 20 minutes by car from Masoko. Busses also link Kivinje to Masoko. The trip can also be done by bike in approximately 2 hours.

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DESCRIPTION

Kivinje is an active little town, filled with ruins revealing the prosperous city it was in the 19th century. Old colonial buildings and crumbling remains of ancient Omani structures are disseminated around the city. Kivinje owed its prosperity to several trades, including slave and ivory trade.

KILWA

HERITAGE RESOURCES

Kilwa Kivinje

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Kipatimu
8°28'55.37"S
38°55'8.68"E

LOCATION and ACCESS

The Matumbi hills are located to the west of Kilwa. The main village is Kipatimu, which sits on a hill. Kipatimu is 117 km away from Kilwa Masoko. Drive 67 km towards Njianne on the Dar road and turn left on the rough road. The 50 km trip from Njianne to Kipatimu takes approximately 1h30mn.

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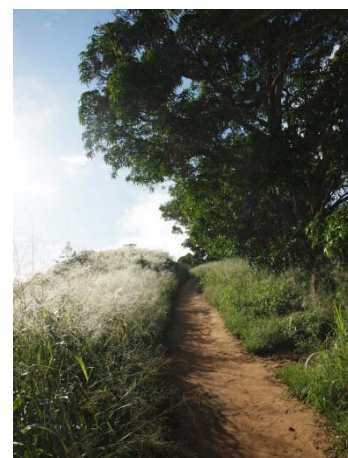
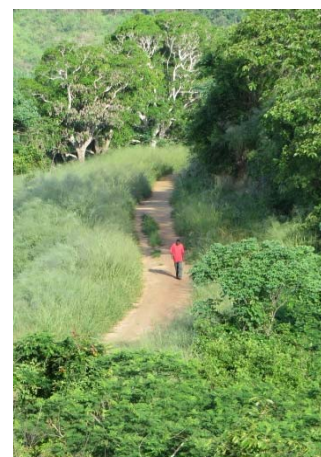


DESCRIPTION

The Matumbi Hills present amazing landscapes dotted with small villages, baobabs, rivers and carefully planted farms (bananas, coconut, cassava...). Walking through these landscapes is a very relaxing experience. The area also contains many caves.

Matumbi Hills

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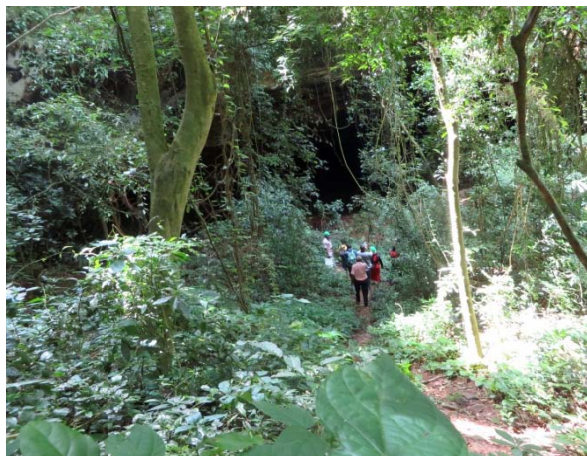


LOCATION and ACCESS

The caves are located in Nandembo village, 8 km away from Kipatimu. Locating the place without a guide is not possible.

08°30'38"S
38°53'00"E

38



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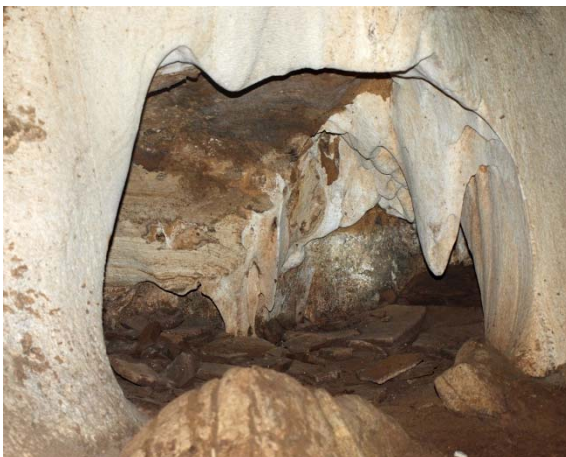


DESCRIPTION

Several caves can be seen around Nandembo village. We recommend avoiding walking through Nangoma cave to stay away from the huge colony of bats. But the entrance with its huge vaulted roof spanning 68 meters is worth seeing. Nangoma was used as a hideaway during war times including for local rebel troops during the Maji Maji revolution. Another cave named Nangoma 2 is worth visiting for its white corridors carved by the water.

Nandembo caves

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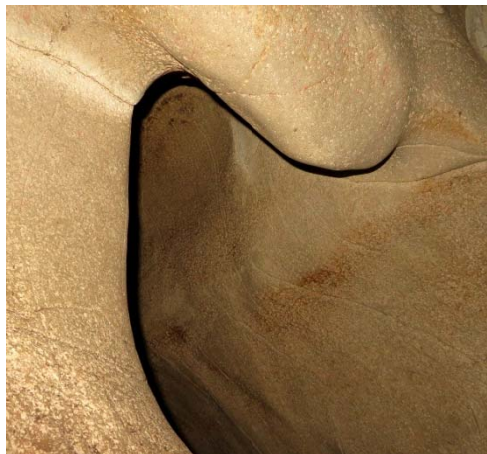
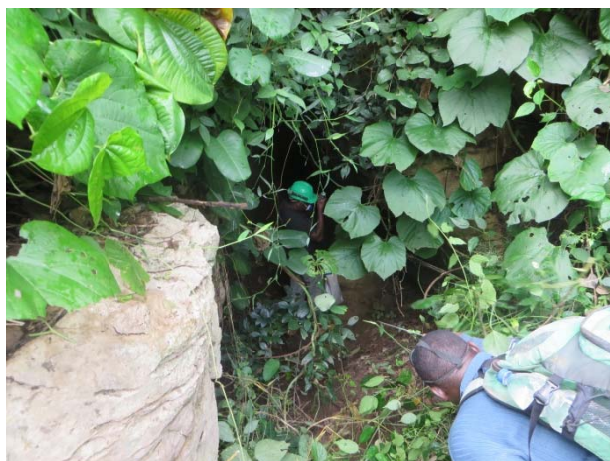


LOCATION and ACCESS

The caves are located in Namaingo village, which is 12 km away from Kipatimu. Locating the place without a guide is not possible because the cave mouths are hidden in thick bushes.

08°32'51.4"S
38°54'54.4"E

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DESCRIPTION

The Namaingo caves are interesting to visit for their network of organic corridors leading to different rooms, rivers and water reservoirs. The cave is sometimes used as a well in the dry season. Some caves house important colonies of bats and should not be visited to avoid disturbing them.

Namaingo caves

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LOCATION

The lake is 84 km away from Masoko (3 hours). From Masoko, drive 29 km north to Nagulukulu (30 min), then take the rough road going west and drive 53 km to Ngea (2,5 hours). Drive 2,5 km more towards Njinjo and park the car. The lake is 3 km north (30 min walk). A guide should be hired in Ngea.

08°49'51.61"S
38°59'36.67"E

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DESCRIPTION

Maliwe is a peaceful lake where a few fishermen can take you on canoes dugout from a single log to observe the wildlife. Hippos and crocodiles can easily be seen, wide colonies of birds, frogs, insects. In the dry season, large quantities of animals gather in to the lake to drink. You can then see monkeys, elephants, warthogs...

KILWA

HERITAGE RESOURCES

Lake Maliwe

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09°14'39.62"S
39°38'23.23"E

LOCATION and ACCESS

The place is located 36 km south of Masoko on the map. By road, it takes almost 2 hours to reach Nakimwela village, and a 45 mn walk to the coast. If the monsoon winds allow, you can also access the site on a dhow from Kilwa Masoko within 3 hours.

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DESCRIPTION

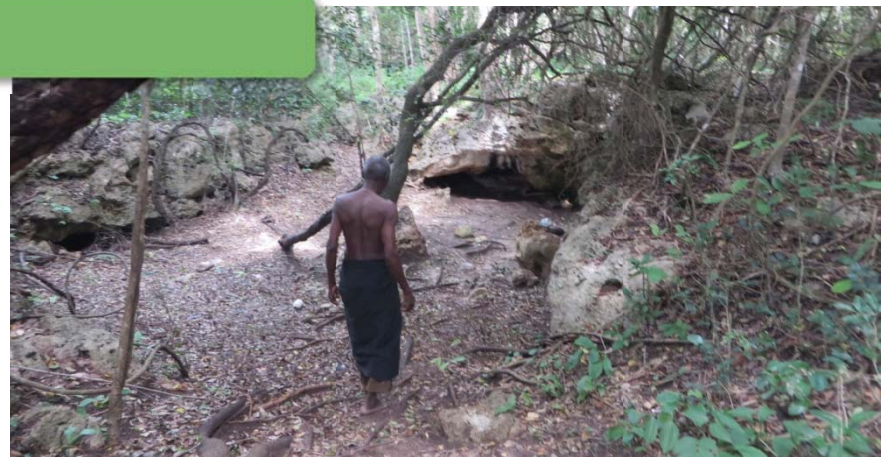
“Ngumbi ya Sukani” means stare, be careful. This dangerous place with strong waves and big rocks is well known by fishermen. The open view and the powerful waves splashing on big reefs are worth a visit. On the way, you can view local farming systems and observe the rich birdlife. You can also visit ritual sites like Mbanga or Noro.

Ngumbi Ya Sukani

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Mbanga



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LOCATION and ACCESS

The place is close to Lihimalyao, a village which is 123 km away from Kilwa Masoko. From the village, you need to walk 45 minutes to the sea side, along a white sand beach. Another one hour walk along the sea cliff brings you to the end of the peninsula. In total, 5 hours are needed from Lihimalyao to go, enjoy the site and come back.

09°16'12.14"S
39°38'53.86"E

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DESCRIPTION

Rasi Ng'umbi is a rough coast carved by the sea waves. The strong waves hitting the coral rocks have created holes in the cliffs, creating amazing splashing waves. On the way to the site, you can see different types of birds like hornbill, doves, eagle and many others. The site offers a nice view on the sea and the rest of the coast. On the same day, you can also visit Mkazambo graves, Mtumbu mosque, Mitimilu magic forest and the giant foot print.

KILWA

HERITAGE RESOURCES

Rasi Ng'umbi

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LOCATION and ACCESS

The place is close to Lihimalyao, a village which is 123 km away from Kilwa Masoko. From the village, you need to walk 40 minutes to see the caves. You need a local guide to locate the caves and find the entrance, but also to perform rituals before entering.

09°20'24.84"S
39°38'33.50"E

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DESCRIPTION

Mkurukara means “leader”, it was used as a shelter by a leader and his followers. There are 2 caves, one that served as a shelter, and the other that supplied fresh water. This water is still fetched by villagers to perform rituals. It is known to have strong healing and spiritual values. The caves have sheltered many communities during colonial era. They display amazing shapes, stalactites and stalagmites, and the temperature inside is cool.

Mkurukara caves

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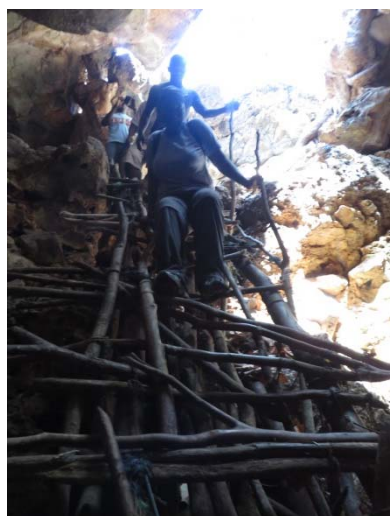


LOCATION and ACCESS

Mwanalinda well and Ng'arwe caves are located in southern Lihimalyao. They can only be accessed by car or motorcycle. The distance is 123 kilometres from Masoko Town, then you walk for 15 minutes to reach the sites.

09°20'19.63"S
39°37'55.86"E

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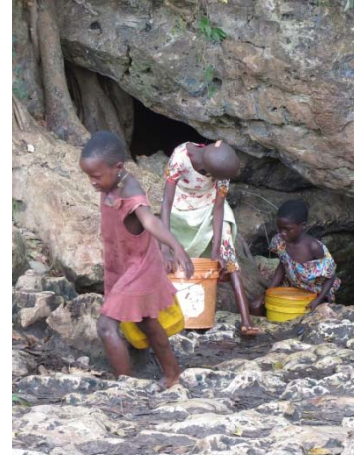


DESCRIPTION

The villagers from the nearest village depend on the water from these caves, which is believed to have healing properties but also magic powers that can relieve people from unlucky situations when used for bathing.

Mwanalinda water well and Ng'arwe cave

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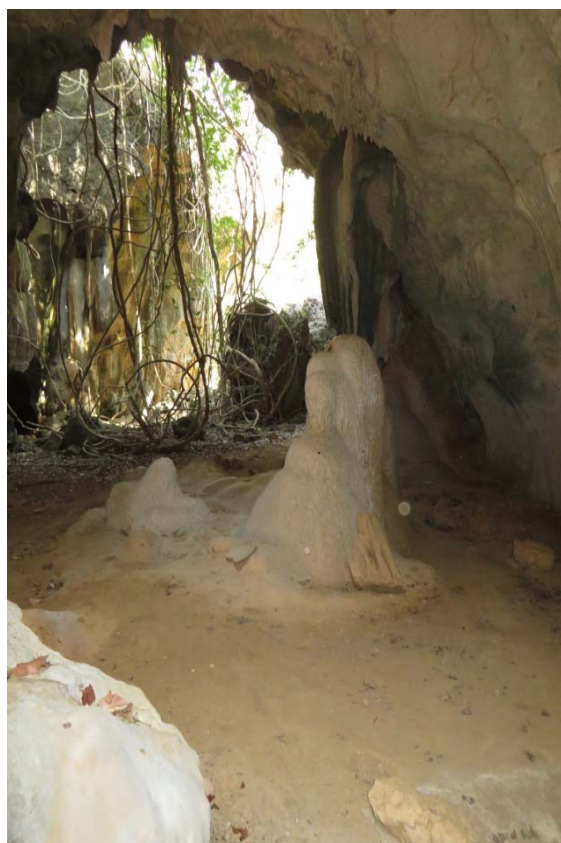


LOCATION and ACCESS

Tung'ande caves are found in Southern Lihimalyao. They are 123 kilometres away from Masoko. It takes 3 hours by car to reach the area and another 45 minutes by foot to see the caves.

09°21'01.39"S
39°38'44.05"E

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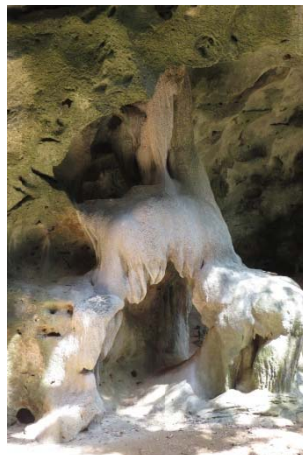


DESCRIPTION

This cave is well ventilated and easy to visit without using artificial light. The various rooms exhibit amazing shapes created by stalactites and stalagmites, including an elephant, a royal chair and a kitchen. More than 2 hours can be spent in the caves.

Tung'ande cave

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LOCATION and ACCESS

Mtumbu mosque and foot prints are located in Ruyaya village. The place can be accessed either by car or by boat, but using a car is faster. Ruyaya is located 123 kilometers away from Kilwa Masoko town. It takes 2 hours by car to arrive at the village, and 45 minutes to more to walk to the site.

09°23'56.85"S
39°34'46.15"E

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DESCRIPTION

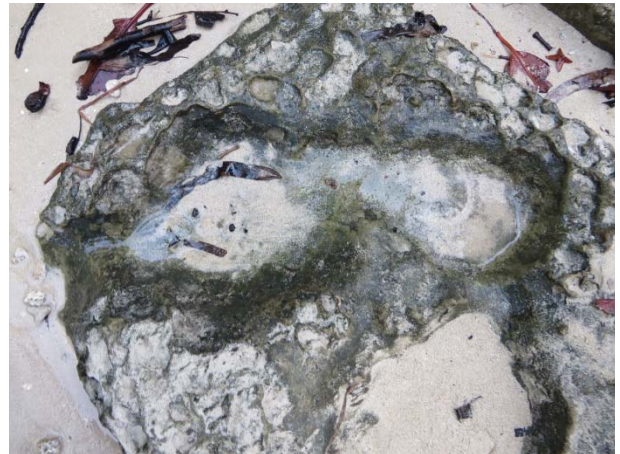
The mosque was built by the Omanis in the 18th Century. It seats on the coast, inside the bay. The building is partly in ruins, but large parts are still standing. Villagers consider the place sacred. This area also displays a large footprint on the ground. This print would belong to a giant person, Unji bin Unuki, who, according to oral tradition, was tall enough to catch a fish in the sea and grill it with the sun. Unji bin Unuki is also known as Nanganana “Nangakumbi”.

KILWA

HERITAGE RESOURCES

Mtumbu mosque and giant foot print

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LOCATION and ACCESS

Kiswele village which is found in southern part of Kilwa District, it is about 120 kilometers from Masoko town, and takes 2 hours by car to reach the area, then you walk for 15 minutes to the site.

09°25'47.99"S
39°33'21.10"E

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DESCRIPTION

Kiswele is a fishermen village inside a quiet bay, where boat coming from the ocean can easily land. It also was the camping site of the British during the First World War. It was used as a strategic place to store ammunitions and hide. Inside Kiswele, you can climb a hill called Pandawe where rituals are performed.



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LOCATION and ACCESS

Rushungi is a small village on the coast, located approximately 120 km away by road from Masoko. On the Lindi road, turn left 5 km after Mandawa village on a rough road. The place can be accessed by car within less than 3 hours from Masoko, no walk needed.

09°25'44.09"S
39°35'56.29"E

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DESCRIPTION

Rushungi is a village where Indian traders established a storehouse and a port to ship sisal from Rushungi to Pangani Tanga, which was the hub for sisal trade during colonial times. Big dhows can still be seen in the bay, but the store houses are abandoned. The village has a very nice white sand beach and boat trips can be organised. Meals can be ordered in advance and taken on a small sand island.



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LOCATION and ACCESS

Ngurumu site is found at Mchakama, in Mavuji village. It can only be accessed by car or motorcycle.

Mchakama is approximately 65 km away from Masoko town. Going there takes about one and a half hour.

09°06'48.89"S
39°15'02.77"E

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DESCRIPTION

Ngurumu is a river which passes between two rock formations and supplies water to most of the villagers. Myths and beliefs are attached to this river and can be told by the local guides. The river is also called Mwalimkoto, after the name of a girl who disappeared in the river after fetching water when the tradition did not allow her to do so.

Ngurumu Mchakama Mavuji

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LOCATION and ACCESS

The main cave is located in Kiwawa village but some other caves can be found in Kiukula area. Kiwawa is about 70 km away from Masoko. Going there takes about one and a half hour. You then need to walk for about 15 minutes to reach the site.

09°11'25.06"S
39°21'34.52"E

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KILWA ISLANDS TOUR GUIDE ASSOCIATION

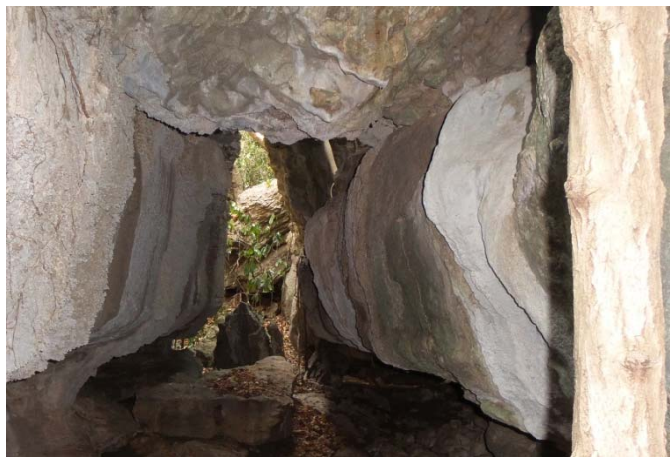
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KILWA MASOKO TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY



DESCRIPTION

It is a large and well ventilated cave, with enough light to walk without using torchlight. Clusters of stalactites and stalagmites create different shapes decorating the cave.

Kiwawa cave



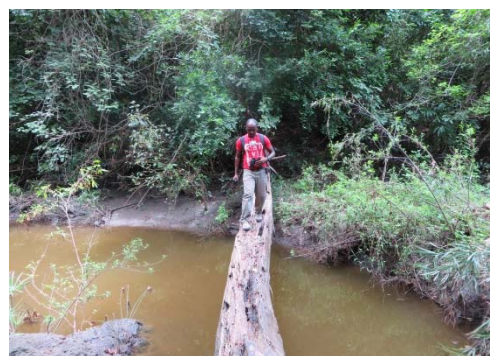


LOCATION and ACCESS

Mandawa is a small village located on the Lindi road, approximately 100 km away from Masoko. Access is possible by car or by public transport. From Masoko, it takes approximately 1h20mn to reach Mandawa.

09°22'28.36"S
39°26'15.69"E

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DESCRIPTION

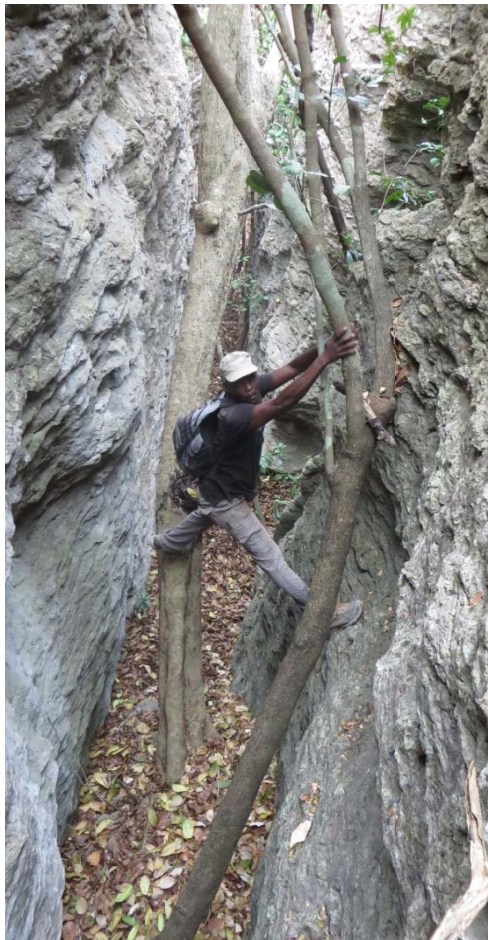
The village has kept its authenticity and offers many opportunities for visits. Wildlife is very rich and the landscape is dotted with interesting physical features and sacred sites, where rituals are regularly performed. Short or long walks can be organized for bird watching, understanding traditional life or simply picnicking in the forest.

KILWA

HERITAGE RESOURCES

Mandawa Village

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LOCATION and ACCESS

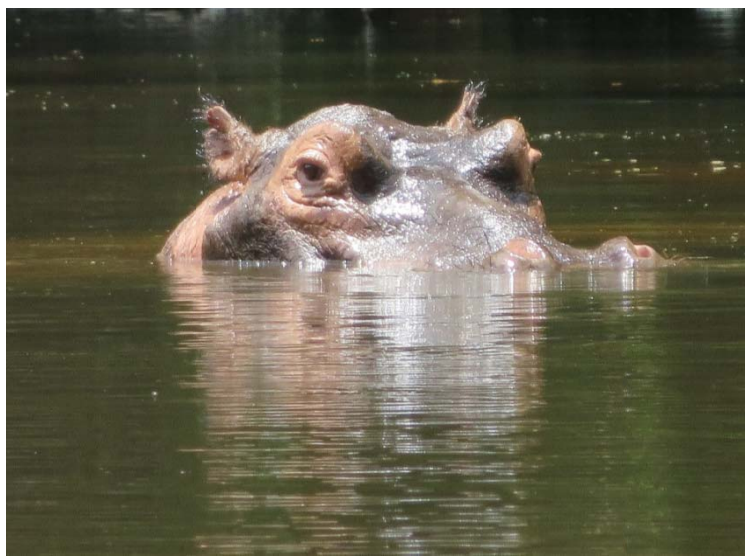
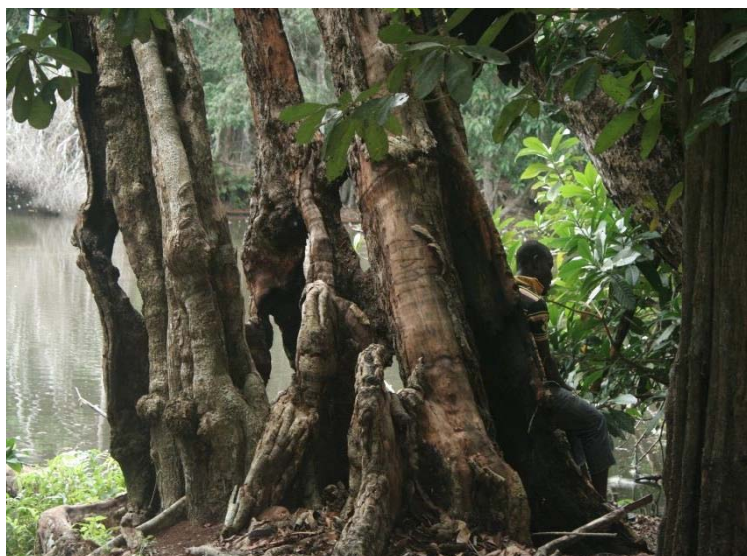
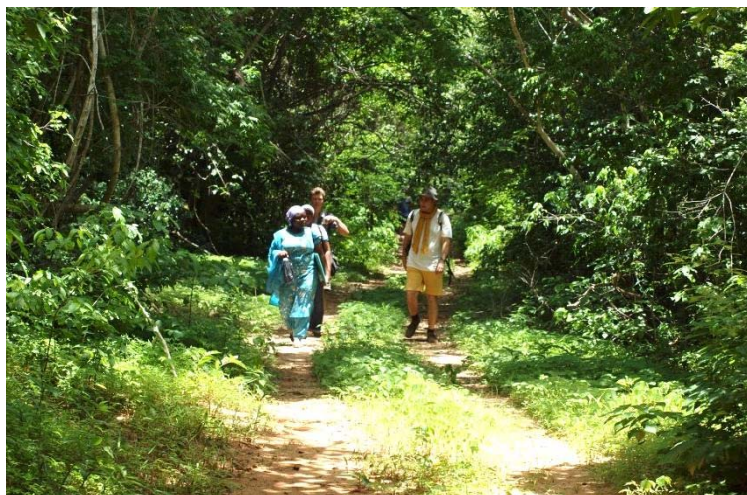
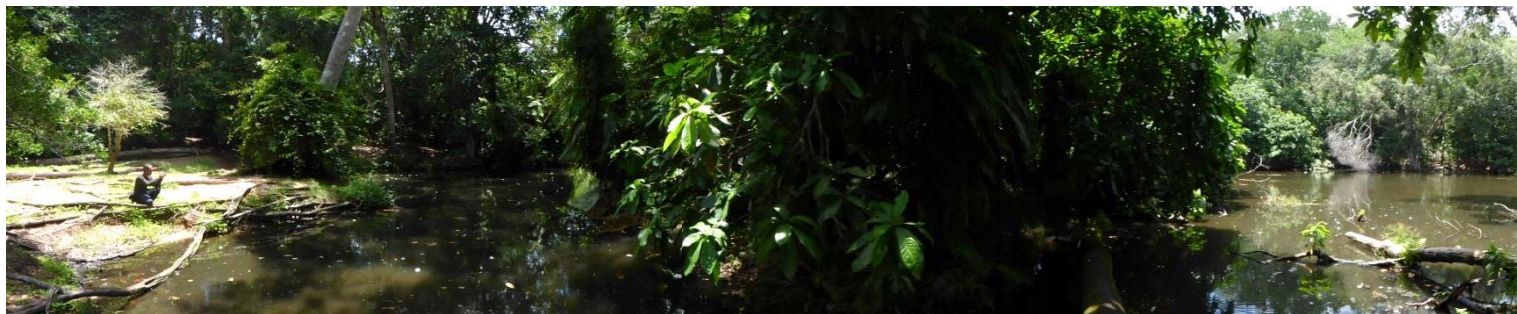
Mto Nyange hippo pool is located in the southern part of Kilwa district, 140 km away from Masoko.

Access is possible by car only, and takes approximately 3 hours. The journey ends with a 15 min walk in the forest.

09°34'8.76"S

39°17'3.89"E

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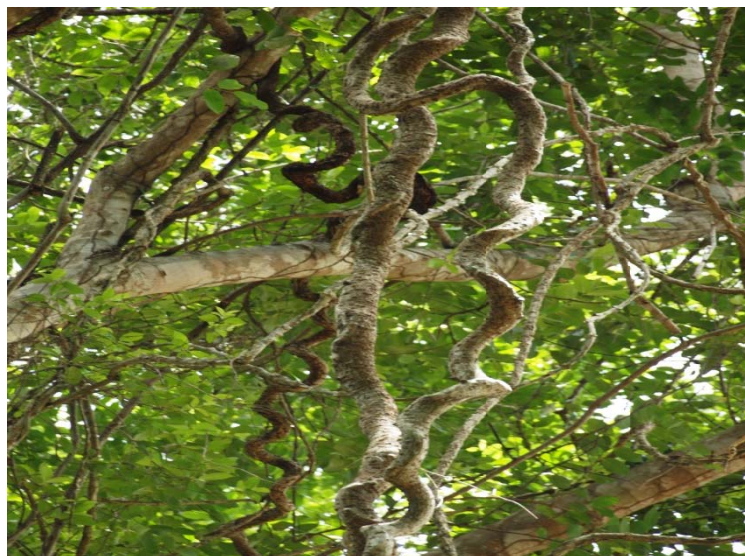
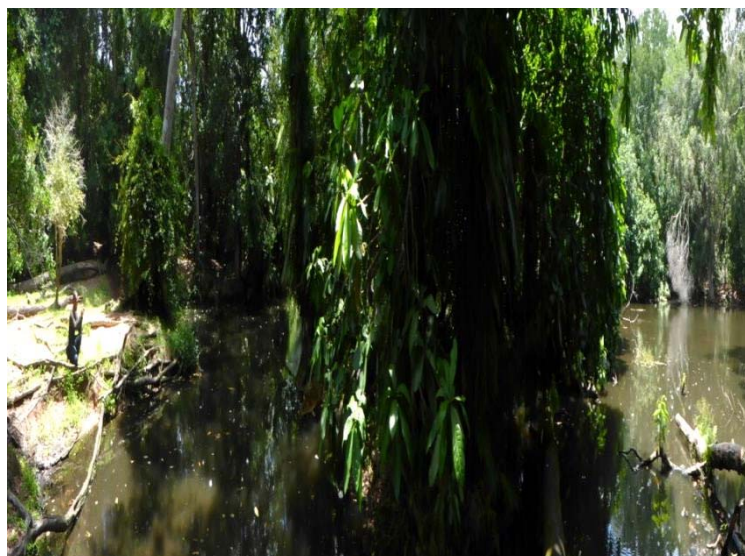
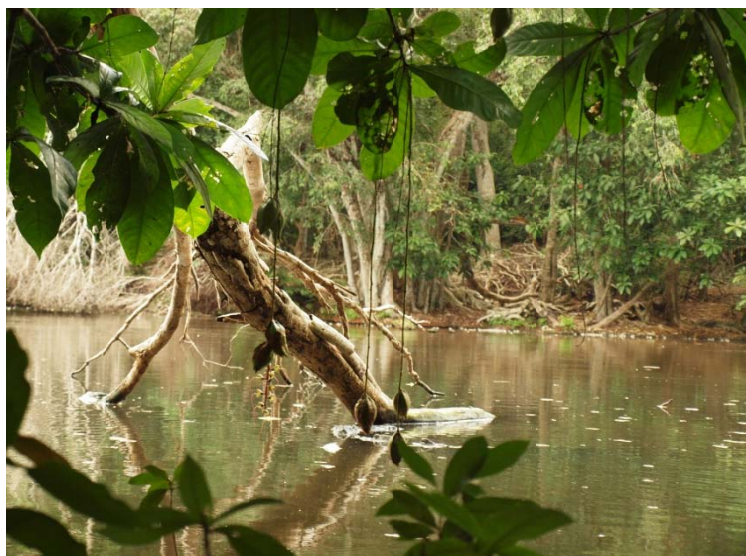


DESCRIPTION

The trip is a nice journey in beautiful landscapes and well preserved villages. Visits should be made when the water level is high and when hippos gather in large numbers in the forest.

Mto Nyange Hippopotamus Pool

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LOCATION and ACCESS

Nanjirinji village is found in the South-western part of Kilwa District. The distance from Masoko is 165 kilometres, and it takes approximately 3 hours by car. To reach the place where honey is harvested, you need to walk for about 45 minutes.

09°40'13.07"S
39°06'35.95"E

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DESCRIPTION

Nanjirinji is renowned for the production of quality honey and natural bees' settlement. If you are lucky, you can see animals on the way, including impalas. The whole area is a conserved forest where ebony trees are grown and exploited in a sustainable way.

Nanjirinji bee keeping

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LOCATION

Ritual sites are scattered throughout the district, in towns and villages as well as in forests. These places are well known by the population but are generally hidden in remote places.

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DESCRIPTION

The ritual dimension is an integral part of the culture of the district. These sites are highly respected by the population. People go there to ask for healing, obtain protection and seek support from the spirits in their activities. Some of these sites are linked to very interesting legends such as the Bangwe stone, which would be a petrified imam who did not comply with Koranic rules.

Ritual Sites



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LOCATION and ACCESS

The profusion of birds is such that bird watching is possible everywhere: on the islands, in the mangrove, on the mainland, even in Masoko town.

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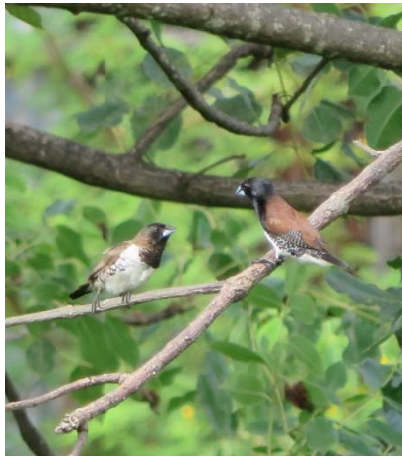
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DESCRIPTION

Walking in the landscape and observing the great variety of bird species with your eyes and ears is a great experience, especially with the guides who are knowledgeable about species found. Binoculars can be provided by the guides.

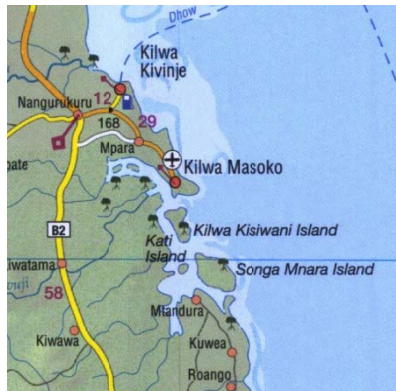
Bird Watching



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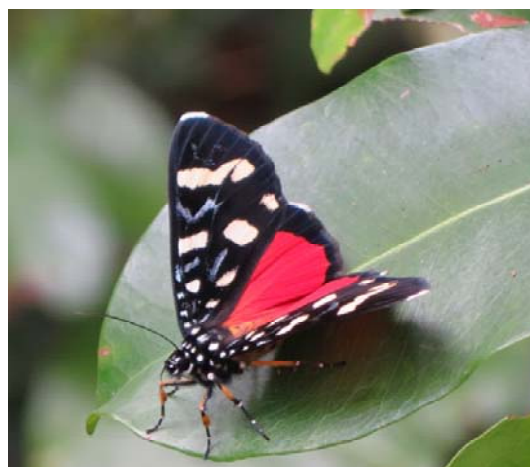
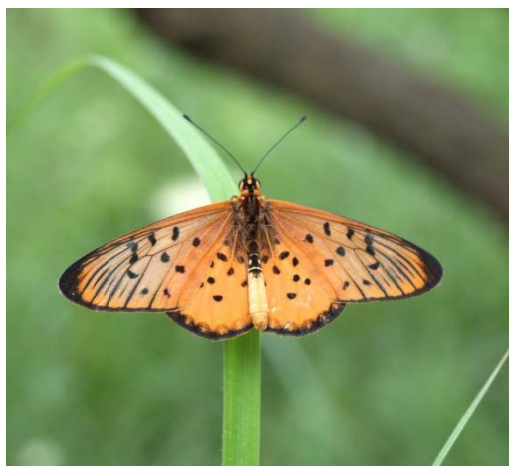




LOCATION and ACCESS

Insects can be found everywhere in the District, even on Rukila island, in the middle of the ocean. The forested areas such as Mtoyange are particularly rich in butterflies.

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DESCRIPTION

Tanzanian landscapes are home to hundreds of different species of friendly insects including remarkable butterflies. Due to its vast natural reserves covered with forested areas, Kilwa district is particularly interesting.

Insects





More information on www.tanzaniatouristboard.com and www.flickr.com/photos/130001931@N08